## LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3: (canceled).

4 (currently amended): A low-noise transformer characterized in that the transformer core formed by laminating n pieces of electrical steel sheets has viscoelastic layers 30 µm or more in thickness inserted ~~at random~~ at m gaps among the n-1 gaps of laminated layers, <u>wherein the number of laminated layers between the gaps wherein said viscoelastic layers are inserted are unequal</u>, m satisfying the following formula:

$$3 \le (n-1)/m \le 30.$$

Claims 5 and 6: (canceled).

7 (previously presented): A low-noise transformer according to claim 4 wherein said viscoelastic layer has a loss factor with one or more peaks at temperatures within a range from 20 to 200°C.

Claims 8 and 9: (canceled).